CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) An elevator control device comprising:

a plurality of cars running in a ~~circulation type~~ circulating running shaft ~~formed by interconnecting~~ including an ascent shaft and a descent shaft interconnected at upper and lower terminal portions thereof;

a plurality of individual car control devices for ~~performing operation control~~ independently ~~on~~ controlling the plurality of cars; and

a group supervisory control device for ~~performing~~ collective control ~~on~~ of the plurality of individual car control devices, ~~wherein the group supervisory control device is equipped with:~~ and including

~~a~~ communication means for ~~performing~~ transmission of information to and reception of information ~~to and~~ from the plurality of individual car control devices;

~~a~~ first shunting means for outputting a first shunting command for moving a car which has responded to a call request to a predetermined shunting floor, based on information ~~on~~ concerning each car received from the plurality of individual car control devices;

~~a~~ blocked state detection means for detecting, based on ~~the basis of~~ the information ~~on~~ concerning each car received from the plurality of individual car control devices through the communication means, a blocked state in which a succeeding car is being blocked by a preceding car that is in a standby state at the predetermined shunting floor; and

~~a~~ second shunting means for outputting a second shunting command for moving the preceding car, which is in the standby state at the predetermined shunting floor, to a new shunting floor when ~~it is detected by~~ the blocked state detection means detects that the succeeding car is in the blocked state.

2. (Currently Amended) An elevator control method for controlling a plurality of cars running in a ~~circulation type~~ circulating running shaft ~~formed by interconnecting~~ including an ascent shaft and ~~a~~ descent shaft interconnected at upper and lower terminal portions thereof, the method comprising:

moving a car which has responded to a call request to a predetermined shunting floor based on positional information ~~on~~ for each of the plurality of cars;

detecting, based on ~~the basis of~~ the positional information ~~on~~ for each of the plurality of cars, a blocked state in which a succeeding car is being blocked by a preceding car that is in a standby state at the predetermined shunting floor; and

moving the preceding car, which is in the standby state at the predetermined shunting floor, to a new shunting floor when ~~it is detected that~~ <u>the blocked state of</u> the succeeding car is ~~in the blocked state~~ <u>detected</u>.